Dr. Sauer

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route de Ferney 150
1211 Geneva 20

MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

15-19 September 1986

Meeting held in

Reykjavik, Iceland

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD iii

1. OPENING ACTIONS 1

A. Worship 1
B. Small groups 1
C. Opening session 1
D. Roll call 1
E. Minutes 2
F. Adoption of agenda and timetable 2
G. Membership of sub-committees 2

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY 2

3. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON FINANCES 5

4. PROGRAMME REPORTS 7

A. Unit I 7
B. Unit II 8
C. Unit III 10

5. PROGRAMME MATTERS 11

A. Vital and coherent theology 11
B. Christian-Marxist Dialogue 13
C. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) 14
D. Consultation on Resource Sharing 15
E. World Conferences: Mission and Evangelism 16
Faith and Order 16
F. Programme on Family Education 17

6. STAFFING MATTERS 18

A. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Staffing Issues 18
B. Maximum Years of Service Rule 20
C. Legal situation concerning staff contracts 20

7. PUBLIC ISSUES

A. South Africa 21
B. Nicaragua 21
C. Nuclear testing 23

8. SEVENTH ASSEMBLY 24

9. CENTRAL COMMITTEE, JANUARY 1987 25

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SEPTEMBER 1987 26

11. SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM 27

12. TRAVEL TO SOUTH AFRICA 28

13. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS 28

14. PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY ... 29

15. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION 30

A. Applications for membership 30
B. Applications for affiliation 30

16. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE 30

17. TRAVEL EXPENSES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 40

18. EVALUATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN KINSHASA AND REYKJAVIK 40

A. Kinshasa 40
B. Reykjavik 41

19. FUTURE MEETINGS 41

20. CLOSING ACTIONS 41

APPENDICES

I. Attendance 43

II. Revised membership of sub-committees 45

III. Special Fund to Combat Racism: List of allocations for 1986 46

IV. 1987 budget 49

V. Travel expenses of Executive Committee members 50

FOREWORD

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland hosted the Executive Committee and the meeting was held at the Bustada Church.

On Sunday, 14 September, members of the Executive Committee and staff preached or brought greetings at services in parishes in and around Reykjavik.

On Sunday evening, the Bishop of Iceland, the Rt Rev. Pétur Sigurgeirsson, gave a dinner reception for all participants. On Tuesday, 16 September, a dinner reception was given by the Mayor of Reykjavik, and on Thursday, 18 September, participants were received by President Vigdis Finnbogadottir of Iceland at her official residence.

Arrangements on other evenings included a women's meeting with Icelandic women on 15 September, dinner and discussion with local families and special interest groups on 17 September, and a social evening in the hall of Gardabaer Church, whose members provided dinner for participants. On the evening of 19 September, Bishop Pétur gave a farewell reception following the closing service. On Saturday, 20 September, the Church of Iceland offered an all-day excursion to places of historical, cultural and natural interest.

Pastors and members of local congregations of the Church of Iceland and other churches were present at the opening session and the closing service. The Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs attended part of the meeting on Friday, 19 September. Local parishes were responsible for providing lunches at the Bustada Church during the meeting.

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Reykjavik, Iceland
15-19 September 1986

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Worship

The opening service of worship, held in the Bustada Church on Monday morning, 15 September, was led by Metropolitan Gregorios. Opening worship on subsequent days was led by Bishop Toth, Ms Abayasekera, Mr Bena-Silu and Dr McCloud.

Archbishop Makhulu and Dr Wilson, assisted by Ms Campbell, had been asked by the Officers to act as chaplains to the meeting and led prayers at the close of some of the sessions.

The closing service was held on Friday evening in the Langholt Church. The Rev. Sigurdur Gudjonsson, pastor of the church, welcomed the Committee and staff. Pastors of other Church of Iceland congregations and representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, Seventh-Day Adventists, Salvation Army, Pentecostal Church and the YMCA, and the WCC Officers led parts of the service. The preacher was Archbishop Makhulu. The WCC Presidents brought greetings from their region.

B. Small groups

The meeting convened at 9.15 in the hall of the Bustada Church and began with a session in which members and staff met in six small groups to exchange information and views on recent significant events in an attempt to relate their ecumenical experience to the items on the agenda.

C. Opening session

At the official opening public session, held in the Bustada Church, the Executive Committee was welcomed by the Rt Rev. Pétur Sigurgeirsson, Bishop of Iceland, the Rev. Audur Eir Vilhjalmsdottir, Moderator of the Church's Commission on Foreign Relations and the Rev. Olafur Skulason, pastor of Bustada, Dean of Reykjavik and Vice-Bishop. The Moderator welcomed the Bishop and local visitors to the session.

D. Roll call

The General Secretary introduced all participants (Appendix I) and presented apologies from Patriarch Ignatios IV, Metropolitan Antonie and Mr Faa'alo.

E. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Kinshasa, Zaire, 9-15 March 1986, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

F. Adoption of agenda and timetable

The General Secretary presented the agenda and timetable. A number of additions were agreed and the agenda and timetable as amended were adopted.

G. Membership of sub-committees

The General Secretary referred to the request of the Executive Committee in Zaire that the Officers review the membership of sub-committees. He presented the suggested revised list of membership. It was proposed that all three Programme Unit Moderators be members of the Programme Sub-committee. Other changes were suggested in order to achieve balances. The membership of sub-committees as proposed was agreed (Appendix II). Dr Tolen asked that when such a document is presented, it include the rationale for its proposals.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary began by paying tribute to the following ecumenical leaders who had died since the last meeting of the Executive Committee: Mgr Charles Moeller of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity; Patriarch Justin of the Romanian Orthodox Church, a former member of the Central Committee; Patriarch Nicolaos VI of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria; Dr Joseph Weber, USA, a former staff member at Bossey; Prof. Nikos Nissiotis, a former Director of Bossey and Moderator of the Faith and Order Commission, under whose leadership the Lima documents were shaped; Dr Cynthia Wedel, Episcopal Church, USA, a WCC President from 1975 to 1983; Professor Hovhannes Aharonian, Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, one of the first presidents of the Middle East Council of Churches.

Turning to some of the issues which the churches are trying to face together within the fellowship of the WCC, the General Secretary noted the following consultations which been held: a) with Gypsies in Europe, who are often the victims of discrimination; b) on hunger and development in Africa; c) on refugees and the role of the churches in offering asylum and helping societies to overcome prejudice and establish just measures; d) on the ethical and pastoral issues raised by the disease AIDS; e) on the role of women in church leadership; f) workshops on worship and on African spirituality. The list indicated the variety of subjects on which the WCC brings the churches together. But, the General Secretary asked: Are we

responding to the needs of the churches? Are the churches aware of the diversity and richness of the resources available in the WCC? Is the work well communicated, and are the theological presuppositions easily perceptible?

Another dimension of the fellowship of churches in the WCC is illustrated by the visits to the Geneva headquarters. Since March there has been an ecumenical delegation from the churches in Ethiopia to discuss problems of mission and service and to express thanks for the help received in famine relief, and a visit from the Methodist Church, Nigeria, which was concerned with certain trends of Islamization in that country. The Episcopal Church, USA, had sent a delegation to review relations with the WCC, and there had been a visit from a group of Dutch interchurch aid staff. Representatives of the Church of Iceland had been to the Council and it was hoped that a larger delegation would come soon. Representatives of the NCC and Maori Council of Churches in New Zealand had come as part of a tour to churches in Europe and other parts of the world to raise awareness about issues of justice and a nuclear-free Pacific. At the time of the celebration of the 450th anniversary of the Reformation in Geneva many Reformed church leaders from all over the world had held a theological forum in the Ecumenical Centre. Recently the CCIA had arranged a meeting in Geneva between Christians from North and South Korea to discuss the biblical and theological concern for peace and to exchange information on religious life in their two countries. Among the personalities who had visited the Council were President Richard von Weizsäcker of the FRG, a former member of the Executive Committee, who had discussed questions of nuclear power and ecumenical relations, and Mr Oliver Tambo, President of the African National Congress, who had encouraged the WCC to continue to support the struggle of the churches in South Africa which alone provide hope to the people there.

The General Secretary then spoke of the intention to make ecumenical visits to all member churches before the next Assembly. On the occasion of various sub-unit commission meetings there had been visits to Japan, Nicaragua, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the FRG, Romania, Bulgaria and the USSR. Other delegations had been sent to discuss particular problems with the churches. Metropolitan Gregorios had led a delegation from the WCC and CCA to the Philippines and recommendations had been made for continuing support to the work of the NCC. Staff had participated in a meeting in Haiti which had set up a new ecumenical agency for church cooperation. A delegation to El Salvador had discussed questions of human rights, a delegation to Sri Lanka had tried to help the churches to find a peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict, and a delegation to Iraq had discussed the role of churches in that country. A staff member had also visited Iran and it was hoped to send a team there later. The General Secretary had led a team visit to Uganda, where the churches were participating in rebuilding the nation. He had also visited Kenya, Norway and Sweden.

In April he had gone to the Vatican, with Prof. Sabev, Dr Gassmann and Mr Blanc, for his first official visit to the Pope. They had also visited various Vatican Secretariats and Dicasteries related to the WCC. One of the main subjects of discussion had been the way in which the Roman Catholic Church would participate in work on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC). At the moment, the RCC, while willing to cooperate in areas of justice and peace, was concerned about the ecclesiological implications of "covenanting". There would be an official response to the invitation to join in the process after the first JPIC consultation in November. Meanwhile the Pope had invited world religious leaders to a Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi on 27 October. The WCC would be represented by Dame Nita Barrow, Dr Bührig, Metropolitan Gregorios and the General Secretary. The General Secretary referred to the discussion on Roman Catholic relationships at the Zaire meeting and the proposal that a post be created for a full-time staff person to monitor relationships with the RCC. A proposal would go to the Programme and Staffing Sub-committees.

Since March there had been public statements on the bombing of Libya in April; the attack on the Air Lanka plane at Colombo in May; the attack by South African forces on Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe; the nuclear accident at Chernobyl; a statement by CCPD on the murder in Nicaragua of five civilians, and a statement on South Africa by PTE following a consultation it had organized in Ghana.

The General Secretary referred particularly to a series of events related to South Africa. A Youth meeting in Harare, 1-7 July, of some 90 young people from South Africa, Namibia, the front-line African states and other parts of the world had discussed the South African situation. The WCC was working in close cooperation with the Lutheran World Federation and World Alliance of Reformed Churches in monitoring events in South Africa and taking action. Background information and joint statements had been prepared on the Day of Prayer for South Africa on 16 June. Dame Nita Barrow and Archbishop Scott had been members of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group which visited South Africa and a statement on South Africa had been sent by the WCC, LWF and WARC to their member churches in Commonwealth countries. A joint statement had also been made on South African detainees. In September a WCC President and two members of staff had been able to enter South Africa for the consecration of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The PCR Commission had suggested guidelines for visits to South Africa; the South African Council of Churches had asked for as many visits as possible, and the Programme Sub-committee would have to discuss the question. The PCR Commission had also reopened the question of banks doing business with South Africa and this matter would be referred to the Finance Sub-committee.

With regard to the Seventh Assembly, a decision on its location would have to be taken and the Executive would soon

need to start thinking about the process, style and theme of the Assembly. The report of the Moderator to Central Committee in January might discuss the response to the emphases and priorities set by the Vancouver Assembly. The General Secretary felt that the style of the Seventh Assembly should facilitate a grasp of the totality of the WCC. He spoke of the need of the Church for endurance and perseverence in the face of secularism and the resurgence of other religions. At the same time this must not imply passivity. The Assembly theme might be concerned with the Spirit who leads, guides and gives strength and courage to resist and to testify.

* * *

In discussion, Ms Skuse warned of possible problems in joint action with the LWF and WARC. The joint invitation to the Day of Prayer for South Africa had been misunderstood in her church, which felt that most of the members of the LWF and WARC were also members of the WCC. Metropolitan Gregorios suggested that the WCC have a full discussion on the hierarchy of truths before discussing it with the RCC. Prof. Sabev said that the hierarchy of truths would be the subject of a second consultation sponsored by the Joint Working Group (JWG) in March 1987 but would only be on the agenda of the JWG meeting in 1988. The issue of relationships between the universal and local church would have a central place on the agenda of the JWG meeting in Cairo in April/May 1987.

Dr Nababan asked the General Secretary to comment on the growth of the evangelical, charismatic and fundamentalist movements, their relationship with the mainstream churches, and the implications for church unity. The General Secretary said he would ask the Task Force on Evangelicals to prepare a background paper. Ms Abayasekera asked for further information about the different kinds of team visits and spoke of the need to improve their planning. The General Secretary said a paper on plans, criteria, etc. would be prepared for the Executive Committee meeting in January. Mr Bena-Silu hoped that at the next Assembly there would be fewer subthemes and small groups than in Vancouver. Dr McCloud spoke of the need to establish a timetable for the planning of the Assembly so that churches have adequate time to prepare input. Archbishop Kirill drew attention to General Secretary Gorbachev's third extension of the moratorium on nuclear tests. It was clear that this would not last indefinitely and if tests continued the world would stand on the brink of nuclear catastrophe. He asked how the Executive Committee and the churches could influence public opinion.

3. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON FINANCES

Dr McCloud presented the report as follows:

As was already mentioned in March, the 1985 accounts are globally balanced. For the fourth year in a row, the Council has spent less undesignated income than it received and this has

allowed us to restore the operating balance to a level that we need to face possible difficulties in the coming years.

In 1985, CICARWS had to replenish its reserves on the refugee programme and therefore overran its budget. Because of this, the Council overall had an operating deficit of Sfr. 205,000.

1985 may be marking a turning point in the financial situation of the Council. From 1975 to 1980, we were in a crisis situation. The balance was finally restored in 1981. From 1981 to 1985, we were balanced, but in 1985 this was due for a good part to the level of the dollar that was much higher than our budget rate. And yet, in spite of this, current income dropped slightly for the first time. This is perhaps only a signal that in the present international monetary situation, care will need to be exercised in planning budgets for the coming years, but it must be taken seriously as we consider the 1987 budget.

So far as 1986 is concerned, at the end of July, our expenditure level was on average approximately 10% below approved budget. At the end of the year, this will drop slightly to 6 to 7%. Thanks to forward sales of dollars and to a few higher levels of giving, the income will be close to target.

At the end of the year, the closing fund balances of most of the sub-units will be therefore higher than had been forecast in the approved budget.

The area of main concern for 1987 is, of course, the exchange rate fluctuations.

The sluggishness of the US economy is the overriding influence in the markets leading to pressure on the American authorities once again to reduce interest rates in order to stimulate growth. This, together with the continued reluctance of the German and Japanese authorities to reduce interest rates, is causing strains in the financial markets which have caused a continuing decline in the value of the US dollar and a very strong Yen and DM.

The Swiss franc has continued to be very strong and despite its strength against other currencies, the DM has declined in value against the Swiss franc.

The importance of these movements for the WCC as it discusses the budget for 1987 is very evident as the proposed budget rates for both the US dollar and the DM are above current market rates.

The Finance Sub-committee will be studying the proposed 1987 budget and will be reporting to you later in this session.

The Sub-committee will also be considering reports on the proposed Visser 't Hooft Endowment Fund, on the funding of short-term or experimental programmes, and on the WCC criteria for its banking relationships in view of the present

situation in South Africa and Namibia. The question of the funding of the world consultations and of the next Assembly is also on the agenda of the Sub-committee.

These issues will be reported on at the end of the week.

4. PROGRAMME REPORTS

A. Unit I

Prof. Sabev began by listing the consultations and meetings which Unit I had organized, mostly in cooperation with other sub-units or partners outside the WCC, including the Roman Catholic Church: "The integrity of creation in the light of the apostolic faith" (York, May); a West African URM consultation (Dakar, March); "The churches and the new religious movements" (Amsterdam, September); a series of meetings with partners in dialogue; the first European conference on science and religion (Loccum, March); "Roads to peace and high technology" (Stuttgart, June); the Australian conference on science and technology in action (New Zealand, August).

The main event in the life of the Unit since March had been the first joint meeting of all Unit I commissions and working groups in Potsdam, GDR, 13-20 July. Common worship and Bible study had created an awareness of being members of one body and the General Secretary's presentation on Faith and Witness and its discussion in groups had helped to focus programme priorities and a new vision for the future. There had been several inter-commission meetings on common concerns.

Faith and Order had made progress in its three major studies on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry (BEM), the Common Confession of the Apostolic Faith, and Unity and Renewal. The first volume of responses to BEM had been published and a consultation with representatives of the Christian World Commmunions and Orthodox churches would take place in Venice in October. In November an international consultation would be held in Singapore on unity and the churches' involvement in issues of justice. The Faith and Order Standing Commission had been reluctant to hold a joint world conference on mission and unity, as suggested by the Executive Committee in March, and after discussions between this Commission and that of CWME it had been agreed that a joint conference was not a viable possibility at the present moment. However, the Executive's proposal had been seen as a challenge to closer cooperation between the two commissions in order to clarify and strengthen the relation between mission and unity. Faith and Order had decided to postpone its planned world conference and instead to hold a meeting of the Plenary Commission in 1989.

In this situation, CWME had decided to take up its previous plan to hold a world conference on Mission and Evangelism but requested its postponement until 1989. It also planned consultations on evangelism, with strong participation of Evan-

gelicals (FRG, March 1987); on "Orthodoxy in mission" (Greece, May 1987); and on mission and evangelism with churches in Eastern Europe (Poland, August 1987). It would also cooperate with a Protestant/Roman Catholic conference in the USA in September 1987 at which issues related to the world conference would be discussed from a US perspective. The world conference would be preceded by a youth event.

The Working Group on Dialogue had agreed a) to a joint consultation with CWME on mission and dialogue; b) to contribute to the world conference on mission and evangelism in the area of culture and other religions; c) to cooperate with Church and Society on "A theology of nature and the value of life and a life-centred ethic"; d) to cooperate with Faith and Order on "The unity of the Church and the renewal of human community"; and e) to contribute to the RCL programme on "Spirituality for our time". It had also endorsed a four-year study process on "Theological discoveries in inter-faith dialogue" as the first priority of the sub-unit, and it recommended that the sub-unit undertake a two-year programme on Christian-Marxist dialogue.

The Church and Society Working Group had identified three priority areas for its work: theological and ethical approaches to JPIC; society, technology and the environment: church responses and forms of action; whenever possible, responses to urgent social issues such as nuclear energy and safety, genetic manipulation and AIDS. Studies were being undertaken on the theology of nature, the value of life and life-centred ethics, ecumenical social ethics, deforestation in Central America, appropriate technology in East Africa, education on nuclear issues in the Pacific, church responses to unemployment in Western Europe and technology transfer to Third World countries.

Prof. Sabev stressed that in the review of programme priorities and working methods, Unit I had been faithful to the criteria proposed to Central Committee in 1984. The perspectives and models of "The unity we seek" now needed further clarification. Areas of common programmatic concern and better ways of cooperation between sub-units and with other units had been identified. Study and coordination groups had been created to carry out sub-unit programmes and to seek cooperation at local and regional levels and there were new perspectives for cooperation with the Christian World Communions and the Roman Catholic Church. There would be further exploration of the reflection/action model of work incorporating theology, ethical, social and scientific analysis and appropriate actions to be taken by the churches. Prof. Sabev spoke appreciatively of the active involvement of all commission members in the sub-units' work.

B. Unit II

Ms Sovik reported that the work of CICARWS had been dominated by preparations for the International Consultation on Inter-

Church Aid, Refugee and World Service, to be held in Cyprus in late November, on the theme "Called to be neighbours". CICARWS was also following up the issues on refugees raised at the ecumenical consultation on asylum and protection held in Zurich in April/May, and those raised in the consultation in Cyprus, co-sponsored by the WCC, MECC and CCA, on the plight of possibly two million Asian migrants who may be expelled from the Gulf. The consultation on refugees had led to a special emphasis on the study of root causes forcing people to flee their countries and also to a shift in the Refugee Service work towards more advocacy and work with related structures in churches in both North and South to strengthen common action on refugees. The Churches' Drought Action in Africa (CDAA) and its study of the root causes of hunger and food insufficiency had focused CICARWS's work in Africa and in other regions on the promotion of self-reliance.

In reporting on the Programme to Combat Racism, Ms Sovik expressed deep concern for the Director, Dr Anwar Barkat, who had suffered a second heart attack. There had been two important programmatic events in the life of PCR since March: the Harare Youth meeting and the PCR Commission in Marseille, France. The Commission had urged the organization of a consultation on women under racism and intensification of efforts to bring comprehensive sanctions against South Africa. In 1987 PCR would hold a meeting in Lusaka for representatives of Southern African liberation movements with political affairs experts from the Northern churches, church representatives from the front-line states and South Africa, women, youth and labour unions. The commission's discussion of the JPIC programme, under the guidance of a Native American theologian, had resulted in a provocative statement on the primacy of creation in thinking about JPIC, from the point of view of the oppressed indigenous peoples of the world.

The Christian Medical Commission had just finished a regional meeting for East and West Europe, in Budapest, on "Christian witness to health, wholeness and community-building", with 90 participants from 19 countries. The Commission meeting in Atlanta, USA, in April had reviewed this study, begun ten years ago, and had agreed to conclude it following this meeting and the one to be held in 1987 in North-East Asia. The process would begin immediately and the main findings of the study would be coordinated with the help of representatives from every region and shared with agencies and churches for reflection and action.

The CCPD Commission, meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, had reconfirmed CCPD's historic focus on social and economic justice. There was a strong affirmation of the need to look at things with the eyes of those who suffer. The Nicaraguan churches had been deeply involved in the Commission's work through leading daily worship, through the Commission's participation in the Nicaraguan churches' Vigil for Peace and Justice in Nicaragua, and through the visits made to the churches and different areas of the country. The Commission had sent a pastoral letter to the churches and ecumenical groups in Nicaragua.

CCIA's long-time concern for a divided Korea had been pursued energetically in the last two years, with the Tozanso Consultation in 1984, visits to North and South Korea and the recent meeting organized by CCIA for Christians from the two countries. There would be a larger meeting in about 18 months' time. Churches, human rights organizations and other groups in Chile were suffering from renewed repressive measures following the attempt on the life of General Pinochet. In October CCIA would observe its 40th anniversary with a consultation on "Militarism and the arms race in the context of the struggle for justice". Through the consultation and the Commission meeting which would follow, the first steps would be taken towards an ecumenical statement on peace and disarmament which might be adopted by the next Assembly.

The Human Rights Resources Office for Latin America, in addition to its activities with CCIA in Chile, had been monitoring the situation in Honduras and El Salvador, where attempts had been made to intimidate the churches and other organizations following their denunciation of human rights violations.

The Secretary for JPIC, Dr Preman Niles, had recently arrived and taken in hand the preparations for the JPIC consultation, 7-13 November, on the subject of covenanting, and of the JPIC Advisory Group meetings before and after the consultation.

C. Unit III

Ms Assaad reported that three of the sub-units had held commission meetings and the other two (Renewal and Congregational Life, and Women) would be held in January 1987. All sub-units felt they had made good progress with their priorities and mandates. The Youth Sub-unit had clarified its objectives in working towards an ecumenical youth movement and hoped to share its ideas in a plenary session at Central Committee. Its Working Group had discussed the General Secretary's proposal to organize a special youth event with other Christian youth movements as part of the process of building up youth work in the regions. It also hoped to cooperate with other youth movements in seminars on spirituality.

Three sub-units had held seminars in cooperation with Bossey: the Sub-unit on Women on "The role of women in church leadership", PTE on "Teaching ecumenism", and Education on "Ecumenical learning". In connection with its Commission meeting in Ghana, PTE had organized a consultation on the future of theological education in Africa and team visits in three African countries. RCL had just held Worship workshops in Zimbabwe and Zambia and in October would hold a seminar in Yugoslavia on monastic spirituality. The Women's Sub-unit was happy that the Rev. Anna-Karin Hammar had now taken up the Directorship.

Ms Hammar spoke of some of her basic ideas for the work of the sub-unit. She wanted to cooperate with other sub-units in a spirit of mutual respect and support, so that the common work to implement the Vancouver guidelines on women's concerns and perspectives - becoming integral to all units and sub-units - would continue. In cooperation with the member churches she would like to find approaches where churches can move from where they are, taking into account the different contexts. The sub-unit would continue to facilitate the sharing of information and ideas among women in the churches and women's networks and organizations. With regard to the question of women's ordination, she saw its importance in relation to its wider context, i.e. the ministry of the church in the world. The ministry of women in the church was basic for the churches' ministry in the world.

Ms Assaad, who will leave the staff of the WCC at the end of 1986, said she felt that over the last six years Unit III had grown together as a community. She hoped the integration of both staff and commission members would continue and result in more common programmes serving the churches and the people of God. Unit III needed to reflect further on the concept of the Church as the People of God, with special emphasis on the participation of the laity, women, youth, children and the disabled. The work with Unit II on JPIC was an important part of the concern for ecumenical learning and theological education. Special attention should be given to inter-faith learning.

5. PROGRAMME MATTERS

A. Vital and coherent theology

The report by Prof. José Miguez-Bonino on the concern for a vital and coherent theology, which had been before the Executive Committee in Kinshasa, was again circulated to members together with a number of staff comments, so that a decision might be taken on the method of sharing the report with Central Committee.

Dr Bührig introduced the discussion. She highlighted the staff comment that meetings of the Executive and Central Committees ought to provide an agenda possibility for the vision of the ecumenical movement and role of the WCC to be discussed. She saw Prof. Miguez-Bonino's report as an important paper which would help to answer some of the questions raised in the Executive about the future directions of the WCC. She was struck by three theological elements in it: its interesting interpretation of the trinitarian Basis of the WCC; the need to reformulate the Toronto statement on the Church, the churches and the WCC, and the emphasis on praxis and theological motivation and reflections on moving from dialgoue to mutual accountability. She stressed that Prof. Miguez-Bonino saw coherence not as uniformity but, within diversity, as a direction from which the WCC has come and to which it is go-

ing. She was concerned that the theological impact of the paper not be lost and suggested that the best way to promote a discussion in Central Committee might be to integrate some of the crucial points made by Prof. Miguez-Bonino into the General Secretary's report to Central Committee.

The General Secretary spoke of some of the ways in which work on this concern was being carried forward. In November Metropolitan Gregorios would spend time with the staff in small groups and in the Week of Meetings for theological discussion on theology and diakonia. The Staff Executive Group (SEG) continued to receive reports on the work of each sub-unit, including its theological basis. The Ecumenical Review was becoming a forum on the theological undergirding of various WCC programmes and a series of books was planned to provide a substantial theological contribution in preparation for the Seventh Assembly.

The report and staff comments were referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Dr Tolen presented the report of the Programme Sub-committee at the request of Metropolitan Chrysostomos. The Sub-committee had received the report on vital and coherent theology and recommended that:

a) the General Secretary share the report with the member churches and members of Central Committee for information and comment;

b) the General Secretary send an accompanying letter which includes:
   i) an explanation of the nature and purpose of the paper;
   ii) information on what specific actions have already been taken;
   iii) soliciting from the churches and members of Central Committee suggestions on what features and aspects of the study might be highlighted;
   iv) how the Central Committee might help in the advancement of vital and coherent theology;

c) the reports of the General Secretary and the Moderator to the Central Committee be so designed as to engage Central Committee in theological discussion regarding Christian unity;

d) the General Secretary bring to the Geneva meeting of the Executive Committee (January 1987) a proposal to follow up on the theological issues raised in Prof. Miguez-Bonino's paper, which includes plans for a morning session of the Executive Committee at Atlanta (September 1987) to deal with one of the topics presented in a challenging way in that paper.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendations.

B. Christian-Marxist dialogue

Mr Ariarajah introduced a paper setting out the historical background of the WCC's concern with ideologies, particularly the challenge to the Christian faith posed by Marxism, and the steps taken to discover how much interest there was among churches and institutions in Eastern Europe in Christian-Marxist dialogue. The Working Group meeting in Potsdam in July had suggested that the time might be ripe for the WCC to begin a Christian-Marxist dialogue programme in a small way. The Working Group had recommended that the Sub-unit undertake on behalf of the WCC responsibility for initiating such a programme and proposed that a staff consultant and funds be sought for a period of at least two years to explore and further develop this programme. It saw the programme as having at least two dimensions: assistance to churches in particular situations, as in Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe, in taking new initiatives in Christian-Marxist dialogue, and providing through international dialogues a global context for local dialogues by dealing with particular issues which are of concern to both Christians and Marxists.

In discussion Archbishop Makhulu suggested that the programme include countries in Africa where the churches have to co-exist with Marxism. Archbishop Kirill and Bishop Toth stressed the need to clarify the aims, methodology and partners in the dialogue. Some members felt there was insufficient evidence of the need for the programme. The document was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Dr Tolen reported that the Sub-committee had received the paper on Christian-Marxist dialogue and made the following recommendations:

1. That the Sub-unit on Dialogue bring to the January 1987 meeting of the Executive Committee a fully developed proposal on Christian-Marxist dialogue, taking account of the comments made at the meeting in Reykjavik, namely:

   a) clarify the aims, goals, methodology and the partners in the dialogue, particularly remembering the power element in Christian-Marxist relationships;

   b) greater clarity be sought on the relationship between Christian-Marxist dialogue at the theoretical-philosophical level and dialogue on issues of practical cooperation;

   c) clarify the relationship between dialogue at regional and international levels. Attention should be given to Christian-Marxist relationships also in Africa;

   d) seek greater clarity on the views and possible fuller engagement of churches in socialist countries;

   e) clarify the relationship of this programme to the study on ideologies based in CCPD.

2. That the Sub-unit bring to the next Executive Committee names of persons who may be considered for inclusion in a small advisory group on Christian-Marxist dialogue.

3. That the Sub-unit explore with OICD and the General Secretary the possibility of engaging a consultant from September 1987. Provision for a consultant to be included in the budget of the Sub-unit in 1988.

Dr Tolen said the Sub-committee had been told that the work could only be carried out with the help of a consultant. It felt it could not approve the programme without being assured that a consultant could be appointed. Dr Love felt it was irresponsible of the Executive Committee continually to search for consultants for new programmes without having systematically evaluated existing programmes and deciding what could be replaced.

The General Secretary suggested that staff should continue to work on the issue, bring a preliminary proposal to the Executive Committee in January 1987 taking into account the comments of the Sub-committee as reported above. If this were approved, a more substantial proposal would go to the meeting in September 1987. This was agreed and action on the recommendations deferred.

C. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

Dr Gosling introduced a document entitled "AIDS and the Church as a Healing Community", containing extracts from the findings of a small consultation held in Geneva, 26-29 June 1986. The two main thrusts of the consultation, organized by the Sub-units on Education, Church and Society, and the Christian Medical Commission, were: a) The need to reaffirm the church as a healing community, to carry out pastoral care, social ministry, and education for prevention. The pastoral care of AIDS will demand that we rediscover the ministry to the dying. The education will demand collaboration with medical professionals. The social ministry will demand a growing commitment to justice fighting discrimination. b) The need to remind the churches that AIDS is on the ecumenical agenda because of the alarming rate at which the disease is increasing. Between two and three million people may at present be carrying the virus and the number is doubling every year. It is also on the agenda because much of the discrimination against people with AIDS claims religious foundation. The General Secretary pointed out that the Executive Committee was not being asked to approve the document but to authorize its circulation to the member churches.

The matter was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Dr Tolen reported that the Sub-committee recommended that the document be received and communicated to the member churches, inviting them to share with the WCC any action taken on this matter. It proposed a few amendments, in particular that the first part of the introduction be replaced by the following paragraph:

> The Executive Committee of the WCC, having received a report on the consultation held in Geneva in June 1986 on "AIDS and the Church as a Healing Community" wishes to call the attention of the churches to the urgency of this issue. We call on the churches to respond appropriately to the need for pastoral care, education for prevention and social ministry as called for by the consultation. The Executive Committee also asks the General Secretary of the WCC to plan for appropriate follow-up of the recommendations of the consultation by CMC, Church and Society and Education.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendations.

D. Consultation on Resource Sharing

Mr Ashmall commented on the Report of the Planning Group for the World Consultation on Resource Sharing which had been circulated to members together with a paper setting out the scope and purpose of the consultation and the proposed list of participants. The major aim was to reach an agreement on an ecumenical discipline for the sharing of resources and to foster a process of commitment towards such an ecumenical discipline. Mr Ashmall felt that the Executive Committee would agree with the principles and rationale of the consultation. He was concerned about the proposed number of participants (205 plus 11 observers) compared with the 100 suggested by the Executive Committee in March and wondered whether the consultation needed to be quite so comprehensive. He suggested that, in view of the large number of participants from outside the Americas, Uruguay would be an expensive venue; the original amount of extra-budgetary funding mentioned in Buenos Aires (Sfr. 385,000) would not be adequate for a consultation of 205 participants.

Ms Abayasekera welcomed the proposal as one which took into account the humanness of those who receive resources. However she regretted the description of the consultation as "the culminating event of a long consultative process" and saw it rather as the beginning of a process in which the nature of donor and receiver would change.

Mr van Beek said that the Planning Committee had struggled to reduce the number of participants to 100 but the reason for proposing twice as many lay in the nature of the consultation which was not simply to enable people to reflect on issues but to achieve a measure of agreement and movement towards commitment by all the churches and other partners in the various regions. Invitations would be addressed to the churches and agencies, not to individuals, in order to encourage their commitment.

The report was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Dr Tolen reported that the Sub-committee had received the report and proposals of the Planning Group concerning the aim of the consultation, the number of participants and the venue. Taking into account the financial implications and in the light of the discussions, the Sub-committee recom-

mended:

a) that the number of participants be based on the suggestion of the Executive Committee in March 1986 (i.e. about 100);

b) that the list as reported by the Planning Group be approved in principle, with the understanding that this participation can only be realized inasmuch as financial means can be secured. This could possibly be done by sharing of the cost of travel and/or reconsideration of the venue.

A report should be brought to the Executive Committee at its next meeting in January 1987.

On behalf of the Finance Sub-committee, Dr McCloud proposed the following additional recommendation:

c) that a revised special funding budget be developed by the Office for Resource Sharing in consultation with OICD and reported to the Executive Committee in January 1987.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendations.

E. World conferences: Mission and Evangelism; Faith and Order

Mr Voksoe referred to the request of the Executive Committee in Zaire that the Commissions on Faith and Order and CWME reconsider their planned world conferences with a view to holding a single joint Conference on Unity and Mission in 1989. The two Commissions had met separately and together in Potsdam in July and Mr Voksoe introduced and commented on their reports and a joint document on "Mission and Unity". He summarized their recommendations as follows: a) A single conference did not seem possible or desirable to the majority of the Faith and Order Commission; in the circumstances CWME did not see a joint conference as a feasible possibility prior to the 1991 Assembly; b) Faith and Order proposed to postpone its world conference to some time after the Assembly, and instead to hold a Plenary Commission meeting in 1989; c) CWME proposed that the World Conference on Mission and Evangelism be postponed to 1989; d) the two Commissions had agreed to enter into closer cooperation in questions of the inter-relation between unity and mission with a view to possibly jointly preparing a contribution and statement for the 1991 Assembly.

Mr Voksoe commented that while the two Commissions had the right to say they did not think the Executive Committee's proposal was viable, the Executive had the right not to accept their recommendations. However, to do so would lead to a long debate in the Central Committee. The proposal to postpone the Faith and Order world conference meant that some of the concerns of the Executive with regard to the number of world conferences had been met. However, Mr Voksoe was concerned about WCC strategy. The two major thrusts leading to the next Assembly seemed to be all work related to the JPIC process and the need to take new vital steps on the road to Christian unity, which included the

question of relations with the Roman Catholic Church. He had seen a single world conference on mission and unity as a major step which would focus on unity and common witness. He was afraid that if the recommendations of the two Commissions were accepted as they stood the urgency of this thrust would be reduced. He therefore suggested that in accepting the recommendations the Executive Committee a) ask the Faith and Order Commission as soon as possible to sum up past work (the BEM documents) and start charting a new course and foreseeable goal for Christian unity; b) ask CWME to reconsider the theme of its world conference and, with the help of Faith and Order, to use the theme "Mission and Unity"; c) urge the two sub-units to implement their plans for joint work on mission and unity as soon as possible.

The reports from the two Commission meetings at Potsdam, together with Mr Yoksoe's comments, were referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Dr Tolen presented the report of the Programme Sub-committee as follows:

a) The Sub-committee receives the reports from the Potsdam meeting of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism and of the Standing Commission on Faith and Order as well as the joint document of the two Commissions on "Mission and Unity";

b) The Sub-committee takes note of the plans of the two Commissions for joint work on the inter-relation between unity and mission and cross-representation at each other's major meetings with a view to a major contribution to the next Assembly and to help the churches to better integrate these two concerns in their faith and witness;

c) The Sub-committee urges Faith and Order and CWME to implement these plans in the process of preparation for next meetings and conferences. CWME should include the concern for unity and mission in its 1989 World Conference, recognizing that the theme will remain as originally decided upon; and Faith and Order should deal with the issue of mission and unity in work leading up to a Plenary Commission meeting in 1989 which will replace the Faith and Order World Conference authorized for 1989;

d) The Sub-committee approves the proposed change of date (from 1988 to 1989) for the World Conference on Mission and Evangelism.

The Executive Committee adopted this report.

F. Programme on Family Education

Dr Tolen introduced a paper on the Programme on Family Education. The Central Committee in Buenos Aires had decided that the programme should not continue without an evaluation. This

had now been carried out in a process which included self-evalu- ation by field programmes and culminated in a meeting in Geneva in June 1986 of ten family educators to make an overall assess- ment of the work. The ad hoc group and the Working Group on Education recommended the following three priorities for the work of the WCC in family life education between 1986 and the Seventh Assembly:

a) Reflection on, coordination and promotion of, concerns related to children;

b) Assistance to churches in their redefinition of the family through current biblical, theological and psycho-social understandings;

c) The study on sexuality and human relations requested by the Sixth Assembly and as directed by the Central Committee (Geneva 1984, Minutes, page 62).

The paper was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Dr Tolen reported that the Sub-committee recommended approval of the recommendations regarding the future of this programme as follows:

a) that the priorities cited be endorsed, and

b) that the appointment of an Executive Secretary for the Programme on Family Education to fill the present vacancy be authorized.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

* * *

In addition to the programme matters presented for discussion and decision, the following documents were circulated to Executive Committee members for information only:

- Ideologies: a progress report;
- Statement from the Youth Conference in Harare, 1-6 July 1986;
- Plans for the WCC World Consultation on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service;
- Paper on the NCC Consultation to be held in Geneva, 20-24 October 1986 and the Consultation of Regional Ecumenical Organizations, 18 October.

6. STAFFING MATTERS

A. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Staffing Issues

Dr McCloud reported that the Ad Hoc Committee set up at the Kinshasa meeting of the Executive to work with the General Secretary on staffing issues had met in Geneva on 28 and 29 June.

Members present were: Dr Barrow (substituting for Ms Skuse), Dr Nababan, Dr Tolen and Dr McCloud (moderator). Archbishop Kirill was unable to attend.

The group had concentrated on two items in its mandate, namely to provide long-range plans for balancing the composition of staff with regard to regions, sub-regions, confessions and gender, and to review suggestions received from Central Committee members regarding the document on present and proposed personnel procedures for staff in grades 6-10. It had not had sufficient time to review the staff evaluation procedures of the Council and proposed that staff continue work to develop more practical procedures and report to a future Executive Committee meeting.

Dr McCloud presented the revised Staffing Procedures for Grades 6-10 proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee. These implied some changes in the Rules of the WCC which would be presented to the Central Committee in January 1987 for decision.

The Executive Committee agreed

a) to approve the revised Staffing Procedures as presented;

b) to present the procedures to Central Committee for information;

c) to seek the agreement of Central Committee to the proposed changes in the WCC rules.

Dr McCloud also presented a paper on a long-range plan for balancing staff, together with some comments by the Officers. The report began with some observations made as a result of the Committee's study and discussion:

- the overall imbalance within the staff of WCC is not as great as may at first appear;
- The imbalance which exists in the staff is not the result of any deliberate plan;
- the imbalances which exist are the results of the way in which staff appointments have been made (without serious reference to the composition of previous appointments, and without general knowledge or anticipation of future appointments);
- in the absence of a planned approach to "balance of staff" in the past, imbalances have shifted from one region to another over a period due to which persons were departing, which were remaining, and new staff appointed;
- the different roles in staff selection performed by commissions and working groups have been a factor which has had an impact on the imbalances in staff;
- the imbalances which exist cannot be quickly corrected without incurring what may appear as other imbalances;
- it is not simple and easy to establish criteria for determining what constitutes a balanced staff in the WCC, once many of the varied factors are considered.

The Ad hoc Committee acknowledged the desirability and necessity for the WCC to have a staff which is characterized first by Christian commitment and competence to undertake particular responsibilities within the Council. It further affirmed that the purpose of the WCC can best be fulfilled if the Council, in selecting staff, takes advantage of the vast richness of diversity of its member churches. The Committee suggested directions in which the WCC should move instead of goals to be reached and proposed that staff appointments between 1986 and 1992 be seen in two phases: Phase I, 1986-1989 and Phase II, 1990-1992. It recommended a number of guidelines for addressing imbalances and maintaining some degree of balance in the WCC staff in Phase I. These set out minimum and maximum numbers for each region. Some priorities for redressing regional, sub-regional, confessional and gender imbalances were set out.

In discussion several members welcomed the idea of setting maximum and minimum numbers of staff in the different categories. Bishop Hempel warned against setting guidelines or directions which would be too rigid; it was necessary to leave some space in order to have the most suitable staff to pursue the goals of the WCC. In response to a question from Ms Abayasekera about seconded staff and their effect on balances, Dr McCloud said the Ad Hoc Committee had not dealt with this problem.

The Executive Committee agreed

a) that the document should be reviewed for presentation and adoption at Central Committee in January 1987;

b) that meanwhile it should be used as a basis for the work of the Executive Committee and the Staffing Sub-committee.

B. Maximum Years of Service Rule

Ms Skuse had been invited to comment on the paper presented to the Central Committee in Buenos Aires in order to help the Executive and Staffing Sub-committee to prepare for discussion and decision by the Central Committee in January 1987. However, in view of the limited time available, she proposed that the matter be deferred to January 1987, that there be an early discussion in the Executive Committee, that the paper be referred to the Staffing Sub-committee for detailed consideration, and that the Executive Committee then decide on a recommendation to the Central Committee. This procedure was agreed.

C. Legal situation concerning staff contracts

In the closed session on staffing, Dr Talbot referred to the suggestion of Metropolitan Gregorios at the last meeting of the Executive Committee that a phrase be inserted in the Minute concerning future staff elections in order to clarify the legal obligations of the Council. His suggested wording was checked with

the WCC's lawyers in Geneva who informed the Council that the following text would need to be inserted at the beginning of each Staffing Report:

> "The Central (or Executive) Committee authorizes the General Secretary to proceed with the following appointments and contract extensions, the legal obligations of the World Council of Churches to be binding only as from the actual signing by both parties of the corresponding contracts or contract extensions."

The Executive Committee agreed that this phrase be introduced at the beginning of each Staffing Report in the future.

7. PUBLIC ISSUES

Mr Koshy introduced the discussion on public issues, referring to a number of situations of conflict which had been mentioned in the reports of the General Secretary and the Staff Moderator of Unit II. He assured the Committee that these were being followed even if no specific actions were proposed.

A. South Africa

Archbishop Makhulu introduced a note on developments in South Africa. He stressed the crucial importance of communication in the state of emergency which made it difficult to have a clear picture of the situation and asked that events be monitored even more closely. He spoke of the daily anxiety caused by the violence and the desperation and pent-up anger of young people, many of whom had been detained and sent to retraining camps. He also referred to the plight of refugees within the country who cannot get assistance and who move from place to place. He hoped that the situation of the front-line states, particularly Namibia, would also be kept in mind.

Dr McCloud suggested that copies of the report of the Eminent Persons Group be sent to members of the Executive, and possibly Central Committee.

The Executive Committee noted the actions taken and asked the General Secretary to monitor the situation, to respond in suitable ways and to give special attention to the problem of communication.

B. Nicaragua

Mr Koshy presented a note on Nicaragua, which was facing a new situation. The recent decision of the US Congress to give $100 million to the "Contras" had heightened tension in the region and the US economic boycott was having a devastating effect on life in Nicaragua. Dr McCloud and Dr Love spoke of the challenge

by the US churches to their government's policy and of the attempts to raise funds for aid to Nicaragua to match the government's grants to the "Contras".

It was agreed to appoint the following group to draft a statement: Bishop Toth, Dr Love and Mr Piske.

At a later session Dr Love presented the proposed statement, which was adopted as follows:

The sovereignty of the Nicaraguan nation is under threat. Its territorial integrity has been violated. The right of its people for self-determination has been challenged. Their efforts to shape their own destiny are being thwarted. Pain and suffering have been imposed on them. They are crying out for help to fulfil their aspiration for peace and justice.

The attempt of the US government to destabilize and overthrow the Nicaraguan government has become more direct and blatant by the decision of the Congress to approve US$ 100 million in new funding to the "Contras". This decision has come soon after the US government's refusal to honour the ruling of the World Court which determined that the US support to rebel forces in Nicaragua constitutes a violation of international law. Large sections of the US public, including many of the churches, have declared thair strong opposition to their government's policy on Nicaragua.

The recent visit of the Commissioners of the Christian Medical Commission to Nicaragua and the meeting of the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development held there, provided new opportunities for representatives of the WCC to listen to the people of Nicaragua and to learn about their achievements, especially in education and health care, and their problems. Both groups underlined the need for renewed support of the ecumenical community to the Nicaraguan people at this time of profound crisis. They have reported on the devastating effects of the US economic sanctions and military intervention on Nicaragua.

In a letter to churches and Christians in the USA, dated July 4, 1986, the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua said (about the Congress' decision for additional support to the "Contras"):

> "This measure entails a financing of pain, of death, and of the destruction of our suffering people. Nevertheless, for us this approval is something more than a violation of International Law by the Reagan Administration: it is the advancement of the dominion of the darkness over the light, the imposition of death over life, and force over reason and justice. In spite of this advancement, we are encouraged by the Biblical promise that the darkness cannot prevail over light (John 1:5).
>
> Because of the economic embargo against Nicaragua, the war imposed by the White House through the counter-revolution and the disinformation campaigns and pressures against this country, life is becoming almost impossible here: the food

supply is alarmingly scarce, the most elemental medicines are lacking, transportation is precarious, raw materials, spare parts, job possibilities are more difficult each day. Daily we bury and weep over our dead while diseases, mal- nutrition and desperation spread among our people."

The Executive Committee

reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Nicaragua in their efforts "to choose an order responsive to their own history and distinctive culture, independent and non-aligned, pluralistic and with an economy designed to benefit the poor". (Central Committee, August 1985);

calls upon member churches
to encourage their governments to use their influence to bring an end to the economic and military intervention against Nicaragua, and to increase their assistance through trade and aid; to continue to uphold the Nicaraguan churches in intercessions and to send messages to the Nicaraguan churches on the occasion of the National Worship Celebration for Peace and Justice in Nicaragua on October 31, 1986;

to increase their support to the Nicaraguan churches and related organizations;

and commends and upholds the significant witness of the churches and Christians in the USA (in the spirit of the covenant made with Christians of Central America at the time of the Sixth Assembly), through pastoral and material support to the churches in Nicaragua, the sanctuary movement and the challenge to their government's policy.

It was suggested that when the statement was sent to the member churches it should be accompanied by a summary of significant actions taken by US churches.

C. Nuclear testing

Mr Koshy said that since the Executive Committee statement on peace and disarmament in March there had been a number of developments, including the extension of the moratorium on nuclear testing by the USSR and a statement by the leaders of six nations meeting in Mexico. CCIA would hold a consultation on disarmament and peace early in October and it was hoped that speakers would include representatives of the USA and USSR governments and one of the governments in the six-nation meeting. The CCIA Commission would meet immediately after the consultation and a statement could be made on peace and disarmament after that.

Archbishop Kirill referred to his intervention in the discussion of the General Secretary's report and again stressed that there had been no response from the USA to the moratorium declared by the USSR and that this would not be further prolonged. The resumption of the testing of nuclear weapons by the USSR might have dramatic consequences.

The matter was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, on the recommendation of the Programme Sub-committee, the Executive Committee agreed:

a) to note the urgency of bringing an end to all nuclear tests, the decision of the government of the USSR to extend the moratorium until 1 January 1987, and the offer made through the Six Nation (Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and Tanzania) Initiative for adequate verification of a halt in nuclear testing;

b) to ask the CCIA to consider these and other developments in nuclear disarmament in its Consultation in October 1986;

c) to ask the General Secretary to make a statement/appeals to nuclear weapon states, and take other appropriate actions on the basis of the concerns expressed by the Executive and the findings of the Consultation.

8. SEVENTH ASSEMBLY

A paper on the Seventh Assembly, up-dating the information given to the Executive Committee meeting in Kinshasa, was circulated to members in advance. The WCC had received three equally enthusiastic invitations:

a) Mr Ashmall presented the invitation from the member churches in the UK and from the British Council of Churches for the Assembly to meet in Birmingham, and circulated the letter from Dr Philip Morgan, General Secretary of the BCC, setting out not only the proposed practical arrangements but also the reasons why an Assembly in the UK would be of value both to the churches there and to the WCC. Mr Ashmall said the work already done had been a real ecumenical exercise. Good facilities would be provided, funds made available and significant madia coverage was expected. He stressed that in Birmingham the Assembly would see churches in a First World country struggling to find their role in changed social conditions. Birmingham was an area where multi-faith dialogue could be seen in action. The Assembly would be at the time when the British churches would be coming to the end of a new inter-church process, started in 1986, which it was hoped would produce a new ecumenical instrument.

b) Ms Skuse said that the invitation from the Australian Council of Churches and the three member churches was also supported by many other churches in Australia. She pointed out that there had not been an Assembly in that part of the world, which was also related to the Pacific and parts of Asia. The churches saw their relationship to the WCC as an important part of their mission and renewal and many of the issues with which they were particularly concerned, e.g. mining of uranium, the situation of the Aborigines, were connected with the WCC's emphasis on jus-

tice, peace and the integrity of creation. The capital city, Canberra, was proposed as the site and the WCC could count not only on good facilities but also on the support of the total church community there.

c) Mr Oh Jae Shik said that the National Council of Churches in Korea and two of the member churches had agreed to invite the WCC to hold the Assembly in Seoul. The Executive Committee of the third member church had approved the proposal but this would have to be confirmed by the church's Assembly meeting the following week. If it met in Korea the Assembly would encounter dramatic church growth and serious Christian social witness; it would also encounter rich cultural and religious traditions. It would help to correct the distorted image of the WCC and give momentum to the ecumenical movement. Good facilities and financial support would be available. Mr Oh also pointed to a number of considerations which should be taken into account with regard to the Korean situation.

The matter was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Dr Tolen presented the report of the Sub-committee. After discussion and some amendment, the Executive Committee agreed to receive the report and accept its recommendations as follows:

a) The Sub-committee reviewed carefully the three invitations received from the churches in the UK, Australia and South Korea. After a thorough discussion, the Sub-committee voted to reconfirm the decision of the Executive Committee in March to make a decision at this meeting. It also reconfirmed that preference be given to Australia or Asia, since two of the previous Assemblies have been held in Western Europe.

   The Sub-committee recommends that the invitation of the churches in Australia to hold the Assembly in Canberra be accepted. We propose that a two-week period in January or February 1991 be negotiated as quickly as possible.

   The Sub-committee expresses its deep gratitude to the churches and national councils in all three countries for their strong support and generous invitations. We ask the General Secretary to express our appreciation and gratitude to them.

b) We request the General Secretary to bring to the Central Committee in January proposals regarding a timetable for Assembly preparations.

9. CENTRAL COMMITTEE, JANUARY 1987

The proposed programme for the meeting of Central Committee in January 1987, as approved by the Officers in July, was referred to the Programme Sub-committee. Efforts had been made to modify the programme in the light of the evaluation of the 1985 meeting

in Buenos Aires. As requested by the Executive Committee, the length of the meeting had been shortened. The number of small groups had been reduced to three, the number of unit committee meetings increased to seven, and time for hearings on unit committee reports had been included. There would be two special plenary presentations, on Youth and on Communication, and the Swiss Protestant Church Federation has asked to make a presentation. A number of 40th anniversaries (Bossey, CCIA, the Refugee Service and the Youth Department) would be celebrated following the dedication of the new wing of the Ecumenical Centre.

Dr Tolen reported that the Programme Sub-committee recommended approval of the draft programme with the following recommendations:

a) that the regional meeting be held on Monday or Tuesday;

b) that the visits to Swiss churches on Sunday, 18 January, provide opportunities for meeting and dialogue in addition to participation in worship;

c) that opportunities be provided for contacts and encounters with staff in an organized way at the supper on Thursday or at other times;

d) that the reports of the Moderator and/or General Secretary speak to directions for the work of the WCC up to the next Assembly.

The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, SEPTEMBER 1987

Dr Tolen reported that the Programme Sub-committee proposed the following plan:

Friday, 18 September: arrival in Atlanta.

Saturday, 19 September: meeting with heads and representatives of US member churches, US members of Central Committee, commissions and working groups.

Sunday, 20 September: a) visits to local churches in Atlanta, with special emphasis on the black churches; b) meeting with leaders of black churches and presentation on life and history of US black churches.

Monday, 21 September - Friday, 25 September: Executive Committee meeting, including three evening meetings/receptions with Atlanta people and one afternoon visit to selected Atlanta social justice sites.

Saturday, 26 September: meeting with students at Interdenominational Theological Center and ecumenical service there.

In addition, those who are able to give one week to ten days before the meeting are invited to take part in ecumenical visits to other areas of the US to have a wider experience of US churches and contexts.

Ms Skuse commented that three evening receptions in addition to the usual women's evening meeting allowed little time for discussion among members and staff, drafting, etc. Dr Talbot agreed that there should be only two evening receptions.

The Executive Committee approved the proposed plans.

11. SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

In a closed session, Mr Mutambirwa (in the absence of Dr Barkat) presented the list of allocations for 1986 proposed by the PCR Commission. Of the 71 applications received, 50 had been accepted and it was proposed to distribute $400,000 (compared with $396,000 in 1985). The PCR Commission had decided to give the same amount of money to liberation movements as last year, though somewhat differently divided.

The Commission had agreed that the liberation movements and organizations of the racially oppressed should receive about four-fifths of the total allocations, Allocations to anti-apartheid groups in Germany and Japan had been significantly increased. Despite the recommendation that the Washington Office on Africa be not considered for an allocation this year, the Commission was proposing one more grant in view of the role played by that Office in lobbying in the US Congress for legislation on sanctions against South Africa.

In discussion Archbishop Makhulu reminded the Committee that the liberation struggle is fought on different levels and the WCC should be careful not to show preferences; need should be the basis on which these grants are made.

The Executive Committee agreed to approve grants in the total of US$ 400,000 (Appendix III). It also agreed that there should be an embargo on the public announcement of the grants until 15 October so that information might be received by the member churches prior to such announcement.

Mr Mutambriwa referred to Dr McCloud's proposal at the last Executive Committee that a list of groups whose purposes and objectives PCR supports but to which no financial grant is made be publicized. The PCR Commission had considered this suggestion but felt that such a category would not be consistent with the purposes of the Special Fund. A paper from the Commission, "The future of the Special Fund - a PCR response", was circulated but it was agreed to defer discussion until the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

12. TRAVEL TO SOUTH AFRICA

The proposals of the PCR Commission regarding travel to South Africa, to which the General Secretary had referred in his report, were discussed in the Programme Sub-committee. Dr Tolen reported that the Sub-committee recommended endorsement of the following guidelines for travel to South Africa:

a) Visits to South Africa or Namibia by Committee members, commissioners or staff of the WCC should be encouraged when such visits are on the initiative and specific invitation of the South African Council of Churches or the Council of Churches in Namibia, WCC member churches or organizations recognized by the WCC as being representative of the struggle for liberation in South Africa or Namibia.

b) All such intended visits should be notified to the Director of the PCR for the purposes of monitoring the impact of such visits.

c) Visits to the so-called independent "homelands" should not be undertaken when those visits involve recognition of the homelands' authorities.

d) Member churches, when seeking advice on this issue, should be discouraged from participating in visits to South Africa or Namibia except on the basis of the above criteria.

Dame Nita Barrow said that initiatives such as the Eminent Persons Group would not come under these criteria and asked that they be not applied too rigidly. Archbishop Makhulu pointed out that the EPG had been broadly in support of the struggle for liberation.

The Executive Committee agreed to endorse the guidelines.

13. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS

The report of the General Secretary on his visit to the Vatican and on issues under discussion with the Roman Catholic Church (page 4), together with the recommendation made to the Executive Committee in Kinshasa that a staff person be appointed to monitor relationships with the Roman Catholic Church, were referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Dr Tolen reported as follows:

In a follow-up of the discussion on this issue which took place at the Kinshasa meeting, the Sub-committee takes note of the recommendations of the Revd Jacques Maury, co-Moderator of the Joint Working Group, and endorses the following proposals of the General Secretary:

- that possibilities be explored and resources provided within the authorized budget of the Council for the appointment of a consultant for Roman Catholic Relationships. The consultant, attached to the General Secretariat and working under the direction of the Deputy General Secretary responsible for Roman Catholic relationships, could be assigned the following tasks:

  . to help monitor and assess bilateral dialogues of the Roman Catholic Church in their inter-relations with multilateral dialogues and implications for the total ecumenical work;

  . to act as coordinator (on behalf of the WCC) for the studies undertaken by the Joint Working Group and the Consultative Group on Social Thought and Action;

  . to analyze systematically tendencies and possibilities for better collaboration with the Roman Catholic Church and prepare reports on this issue to the General Sec- retariat and the Governing Bodies of the WCC;

  . to help coordinate the work of WCC sub-units with different offices of the Roman Curia;

  . to complete the survey of ecumenical cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church at local, national and re- gional levels;

  . to assist in the work of the Task Force on Roman Catholic relationships.

Dr McCloud asked what was meant by "possibilities be explored and resources provided within the authorized budget of the Council". The General Secretary explained that it was not an authorization to seek new funds but to see if the post could be covered within the present budget, e.g. with money saved through unfilled vacancies. Dr McCloud and Mr Voksoe referred to a similar action already taken in the closed session on staffing and expressed hesitations about adding a second staff position without going through the normal procedures of seeking new funds.

The Executive Committee agreed that the matter be reconsidered at its meeting in January 1987.

14. PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dr Wilson presented the procedures for the election of the General Secretary of the WCC proposed by the sub-committee set up at the Executive Committee meeting in Kinshasa (Metropolitan Gregorios, Mr Ashmall and herself). The paper included procedures for the appointment and work of a Nominating Committee. It proposed that one name only be placed before Central Committee by the Nominating Committee and that the rationale for such a recommendation be included in the presentation to Central Committee in January 1987.

In discussion it was suggested that the options of presenting either one name or two should be before Central Committee in order to promote debate on the procedures. Some additions and amendments were made to the paper. It was noted that the procedures should be independent of the gender of the persons now in office and that details of the procedures for the appointment of the Nominating Committee needed further consideration.

The Executive Committee agreed:

a) that the Moderator and two Vice-Moderators should be responsible for designing a method of presentation to the Central Committee in January 1987 to enable (i) full debate on the respective merits of one versus two names in nomination for General Secretary; (ii) a final vote by Central Committee to decide this matter by January 1987;

b) that the sub-committee on procedures for the election of the General Secretary of the WCC continue to work by correspondence to refine and elaborate the document, including the development of the rationale for options of presenting one or two names to the Central Committee, and report on further progress to the Executive Committee in January 1987.

15. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

A. Applications for membership

On the recommendation of the Nominations Sub-committee, it was agreed (with one abstention) to recommend to the Central Committee that the Methodist Church, Upper Burma and the Protestant Mehtodist Church of the Ivory Coast be accepted as full members of the WCC.

B. Applications for affiliation

On the recommendation of the Nominations Sub-committee, it was agreed (with one abstention) to recommend to the Central Committee that the following four councils be accepted as associate councils of the WCC: Ecumenical Council of Cuba, The Gambia Christian Council, Jamaica Council of Churches and Liberian Council of Churches.

16. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr McCloud presented the report as follows:

1. 1985 Annual Report

The Sub-committee reviewed the 1985 annual audited statement of accounts and recommends to the Executive Committee that these accounts be approved. Per the authorization given by the Executive Committee at its last meeting, and following approval by the Audit Committee in June 1986, this annual report has already been circulated to the Central Committee and the member churches.

The Executive Committee approved the 1985 accounts.

2. Special Funding

a) International Youth Year: The Sub-committee received a report for information on the funding of the final IYY meeting in the Pacific for evaluation and planning to be held in November. The estimated shortfall is Sfr. 51,346, to be covered by further income for travel assistance, up to Sfr. 47,243 of the Youth programme reserve and the operating funds of the Council. It was noted that the 1987 budget has been prepared on the assumption that at least some of the reserve amount would be available.

b) Persons with Disabilities - Consultancy: OICD was authorized to seek up to Sfr 450,000 over three years to cover the costs of this activity as approved by Central Committee. As the consultancy is now included in the budget, and the income pattern seems solid (pending programme results), this item was removed from the Special Funding category and will be considered part of the Unit III budget until its termination in 1989.

c) Government Funding Consultancy: Originally anticipated to end 30 June 1986, the consultancey was extended until the end of the year. Outstanding expenses through this period can be covered by pledges, and the consultancy was removed from the Special Funding category.

d) World Conferences and Consultations: The Sub-committee considered the schedule of world meetings, approved budgets (totalling Sfr. 3.6 million), askings to date, and funds in hand or pledged until the 1991 Assembly. The Sub-committee requests that authorization also be given to the Sfr. 392,000 budget and askings for the projected NCCs Consultation in October. This was not in the previous list of approved askings.

The Executive Committee agreed to the request.

Due to budgetary difficulties, the annual CWME allocation to the Consultation Fund has been reduced. This reduction in annual allocations creates an anticipated shortfall of Sfr. 32,789 beyond what was considered an "extra-budgetary request" of Sfr. 470,000. The Sub-committee recommends to the Executive Committee that the amount authorized for Special Funding be increased to Sfr. 502,789 to include this amount, on the understanding that the authorized expense budget remains at Sfr. 1,271,107.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation.

The Sub-committee requested that staff prepare information on the financial implications of different meeting sites to enable churches to make budgetary preparation. The Sub-committee further recommends to the Executive Committee that decisions regarding location of meetings take into account the value of the place in terms of the purpose of the meeting, and of the issues dealt with in and for a particular place, and in that context, the differential cost of place choices.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation.

E. "Learning in a World of Many Faiths, Cultures and Ideologies": The "Learning in a World" project has remained well within budget, and using new income, the anticipated shortfall to be covered by the operating balance of the WCC as a one-time measure should be less than originally projected (up to Sfr 35,000). The remaining costs through August 1988 have been introduced in the budget, beginning with 1987. This item is removed from the Special Funding category.

F. Seventh Assembly Funding: The Sub-committee considered results of a preliminary survey of the member churches regarding their plans to cover costs of delegate Assembly travel and accommodation and their planned budget support of the Seventh Assembly. Several of the respondents from the northern countries which provide most of the Council's funds indicated that they could not respond to the question about budget support until a specific asking were received. The survey revealed that very few churches are actually planning now for the costs either of their delegates or other budget support of the Assembly. Staff was asked to identify members of Central Committee whose churches have not responded to the questionnaire prior to the January 1987 meeting so that further efforts can be made to encourage such response. The Sub-committee also recommends that the Executive Committee instruct the General Secretary, in his letter reporting on the choice of Assembly location, to clearly restate the WCC policy that member churches are expected to support their delegations to the Assembly.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation.

As planning for the Seventh Assembly progresses, the Sub-committee recommends to the Executive Committee that serious consideration be given to ways in which the estimated budget of Sfr. 12 million can be reduced. Clearly, if more churches will pay more of their own costs, the amount of subsidy to be budgeted will be lower. The location as decided by the Executive in this session will permit better analysis of travel and accommodation costs, as well as a more precise estimate of local contributions. The Sub-committee asked that specific askings be developed as soon as possible so that churches which have restrictive financial situations and/or long-term budget processes can consider their contribution in specific terms. Such askings should be addressed to all member churches, taking into account present giving patterns (undesignated, designated and trust funds) previous Assembly support, the size of the Assembly delegation, as well as the revised budget.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation.

The Sub-committee draws the attention of the Executive Committee to the context of this Seventh Assembly funding effort: a real increase of nearly 8% per year in the Council budget is needed simply to offset projected inflation and exchange loss. Without such an increase, the staff of the Council (and, subsequently,

programmes) will need to be decreased by at least 1% each year (beginning in 1986) to keep costs even. In addition, Sfr. 3.6 million for meetings has already been authorized over and above budget as projected between now and the Assembly, which may affect the member church capacity and interest in reserving Assembly funds.

3. 1987 Budget income projections

Undesignated income: Following the 2.8% average per annum increase trend for undesignated funds over the last ten years, the 1985 amount of undesignated funds has been increased twice by that amount, giving a projected 1987 undesignated income figure of Sfr. 6,614,455.

Programme contributions: The Sub-committee received detailed listings of anticipated 1987 income by unit and sub-unit. The 1986 anticipated and pledged income was listed as well, and a comparison provided which indicated the 1986 income at 1987 rates. On this basis, information was available regarding real giving variations as opposed to variations in exchange. Donors have increased their giving in original currency to all three programme units, but the dramatic loss on exchange projected for 1987 over 1986 will mean a significant decline in income for the World Council and its programmes, the extent of which will be more accurately presented to the Executive Committee in January when revised exchange rates are entered in the 1987 budget.

4. 1987 expense budget

The Finance Sub-committee received the 1987 budget proposal which, with the exception of CICARWS, met the criteria and procedures outlined in the March meeting of the Executive Committee. The Sub-committee reviewed the assumptions on which the budget was proposed and discussed specific problem areas, notably CICARWS and the Language Service. It was also noted that since the ten-year trend in undesignated income is below inflation, activities wholly dependent upon such funds, such as communications, face long-term problems. Increased designated funding for partially "undesignated income dependent programmes" has permitted the continued full allocation to the General Secretariat and Communication to date. Staff was requested to undertake a thorough study of the problems in financing the Language Service and to bring a report with suggested changes to the January meeting of the Committee. The Sub-committee discussed the CICARWS situation with its director and will review the CICARWS 1987 budget in January after the CICARWS Commission has met.

The proposed expense budget for 1987 totals Sfr. 43, 272,655, a 4.4% increase over 1986.

The funds available as listed in the proposed budget total Sfr. 42,851,000 so that the global shortfall is Sfr. 421,156 of which Sfr. 289,046 represents the undesignated income requirement over and above the 1986 allocations. This shortfall will be reduced by the built-in overrecovery for overhead expenses.

The actual undesignated income required in 1987 totals Sfr. 7,347,711.

The available undesignated income projected is Sfr. 6,614,455 as noted above, to which one-third of the Operating Balance of the WCC can be added (Sfr. 731,354) leading to a total of Sfr. 7,345,711.

Except for CICARWS, the budget is therefore acceptable as presented.

The Sub-committee learned that at the meeting of the Investment Advisory Group on 10 September, it was recommended that the rates used to prepare the budget as presented be revised downward. The suggested changes in major currencies are:

D-mark, presently budgeted at Sfr. 0.85, reduced to Sfr. 0.82
US$, presently budgeted at Sfr. 1.90, reduced to Sfr. 1.60

The combined effect of these two reductions and the impact on related currencies, especially the Canadian dollar, is quite sizeable. The Sub-committee therefore discussed ways in which this exchange risk might be covered and proposes the following measures be taken to cover this shortfall:

a) In view of the advice of the Investment Advisory Group, the staff will attempt to cover a budget rate of Sfr. 1.70 to US$1 by forward sales of dollars;

b) Those sub-units which can absorb the loss of income within the one-third limit of their Operating Balance are authorized to proceed according to budget;

c) Those sub-units which cannot absorb the loss are authorized to spend up to an expenditure level representing 95% of the budget. The Executive Committee will review the situation in September 1987 and decide on the spending levels it can authorize for the remaining quarter at that time. These sub-units are:

General Secretariat	Dialogue
US Office	Church and Society
Film & Visual Arts	Renewal and Congregational Life
Publications	Youth
Project Team	CICARWS
Faith & Order	CCPD

d) The remaining loss of income in CICARWS (Sfr. 578,138) is to be dealt with as follows:

- The amount unused in the Unit II Operating Balance up to the one-third limit be made available to CICARWS;

- The rest (Sfr. 156,294) be charged to the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve;

e) The remaining loss of income in CCPD (Sfr. 101,047) is to be charged to the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve.

These five measures cover the shortfall created by the above mentioned drop in exchange rates.

It is recommended that the Executive Committee endorse these measures and that with the provisions made above for CICARWS and the Language Service, the 1987 proposed budget be approved. (Appendix IV).

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation.

5. Visser 't Hooft Endowment

Background: In March the Executive Committee endorsed the possibility of launching an ecumenical leadership development endowment in memory of Willem Visser 't Hooft, the aim of which would be to assure global ecumenical leadership resources for the future and to encourage the Christian development and witness of young people and the renewal of human communities throughout the world.

The Sub-committee discussion focussed on essential elements to be futher developed in a final proposal for presentation to the next meeting of the Executive and Central Committees, including:

- a clear emphasis that the Endowment should seek new and large donors, especially individuals and foundations, not the same sources which currently support WCC programmes. The Endowment should generate new income for the development of global ecumenical leadership and provide adequate and sustained financial resources for this purpose.

- a statement of the integral relationship between the Endowment and the WCC, Council participation in Endowment management and, within its mandate from the Central Committee, relative autonomy for the Endowment to operate also outside the usual WCC framework for a wider base of appeal than a fund entirely within the WCC. Such a structure would also respond to Visser 't Hooft's own vision of the ecumenical movement and his legacy that it is wider than the WCC.

- a clear statement of goals and objectives. The funds generated by the Endowment should represent a major new source of income for appropriate WCC programmes and other programmes falling within the criteria of the fund.

The proposal needs to be futher developed and improved to give a more specific profile of the Endowment in a clear and challenging way, which also recalls the commitment of Visser 't Hooft to young people, to leadership training and to the future.

The Sub-committe welcomed news of the availability of Dr Alan Brash, who, at the invitation of the General Secretary, has

agreed to come to Geneva for four months beginning in October to further the practical development of this proposal. Emphasis will be given to further preparation of documentation; outline of purpose, development of criteria, organization and structure; exploration of interest and donor prospects: campaign presentation; manual for national committees, contacts with ecumenical leaders around the world, etc. Some time will be spent in the Netherlands in the coming months to consult with interested par- ties there, including members of the Visser 't Hooft family.

The Sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee take interim action to approve in principle the creation of the Visser 't Hooft Endowment for ecumenical leadership development, endorsing the above as a minimum framework for its continued development, leading to a full proposal to the next meeting of the Executive Committee. The Sub-committee further recommends that the Executive Committee authorize costs incurred in the activities noted above to be charged within the 1986 OICD budget, and that a proposed budget for further anticipated development expenses be brought to the January 1987 meeting.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendations.

6. Funding of short-term or experimental programmes

6.1 Use of interest earnings: In July 1986, the Central Committee requested that its flexibility in allocating available undesignated funds be increased so as to allow it to respond to the Sixth Assembly's decision that such funds should be made available for "new programmes of a short-term or experimental basis within the framework of its priorities".

As a first step, the Executive Committee decided in March 1986 that the interest earned on the General Reserve, the Emergency Reserve and the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve be made available for new short-term or experimental programmes that cannot otherwise be funded and the duration of which does not exceed two years, and that can be decided by the Central Committee one half outside of the ordinary budget process and one half within the ordinary budget process.

After further reflction and study, it is proposed that the remaining unallocated interest from these three Reserves in any one year be credited to the Operating Balance of the Council.

The Executive Committee accepted the proposal.

6.2 General Endowment Fund: In July 1985, the Executive Committee considered the possibility of establishing a WCC General Endowment Fund to receive the proceeds of wills, bequests, and legacies given to the WCC as a whole and the use of which is unearmarked and unrestricted by the legator.

It is agreed that since such funds were of a unique and exceptional nature, they should not be seen as ordinary income of the year but should be credited to such an Endowment Fund.

In 1985 the WCC received over $240,000 as a legacy in the United States with no restrictions regarding the use of either the principal or the interest. Since then, several small unearmarked legacies have also been received. In accordance with the instruction of the July 1985 Executive Committee, these funds have been held temporarily in an interest bearing account.

It is now proposed to establish a WCC General Endowment Fund, the interest of which could be used for short-term or experimental programmes, as a second step toward responding to the Central Committee's request.

The Executive Committee accepted the proposal.

The General Endowment would receive unearmarked unrestricted monies given to the WCC as a whole through will, bequest, or legacy. The actual crediting of such amounts to the WCC General Endowment Fund would be made by decision of the Sub-committee on Finance of the Executive Committee on proposal of the General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary for Finance and Administration. The latter would report on all such income at each meeting of the Executive Committee.

The fund would be managed by the Finance staff of the WCC, according to the investment policies established by the Executive Committee for endowment funds (August 1981).

The use of the interest earned would be decided outside the ordinary budget process by the Central Committee for short-term or experimental programmes or activities of the WCC that cannot otherwise be funded and the duration of which does not exceed two years, on proposal of the General Secretary.

It is further proposed that the interest of the year not allocated by the Central Committee increase the principal of the WCC General Endowment Fund.

The Executive Committee accepted the proposal.

It is also proposed that the following legacies be credited to the WCC General Endowment Fund:

Lipphard Legacy	Sfr. 10,160.00	received 1972-1974
Dickinson Trust	US$ 246,809.86	received 1985
Marie Davies Legacy	Sfr. 16,533.80	received 1986
Plumptree Legacy	£ 4,435.61	received 1986
Dujany Bequest	NZ$ 2,000.00	received 1986
Bretherton Bequest	£ 100.00	received 1986
Jeanneret Legace	Sfr. 5,000.00	received 1986
for a total of	Sfr 499,926.15	

The Executive Committee accepted the proposal.

7. Banks doing business with South Africa

Following the Executive Committee decision in July 1985 regarding the bank issue, the General Secretary wrote to the member churches in February 1986 to ask them what they had done in relatin to this question, what criteria they had used to determine which banks they can use, and how useful the WCC criteria were to them in this exercise. Only four responses have been received up to now.

Then, in August 1986, the PCR Commission agreed to recommend to the Executive Committee that additional criteria be adopted by the WCC for the selection and use of banks.

Several questions need to be answered regarding the applicability, and therefore the usefulness, as well as the monitoring possibilities of two of the proposed criteria. Such questions require study and consultation with people regularly involved in monitoring bank activities, such as the ICCR in the USA and ELTSA in the UK.

Consultation should also be undertaken to ascertain that the churches in Namibia would support or would ask the wider ecumenical fellowship for such a measure.

After considering these additional criteria, the Sub-committee recommends that the necessary study and consultation be undertaken and that a report be submitted to the Executive Committee in January 1987.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation.

8. Investment Advisory Group and Audit Committee membership

Investment Advisory Group membership: Three members of the Investment Advisory Group have resigned; they are Mr. Guy Demole, Mr. Jan Pronk and Mr. Jean-Paul Widmer, and the Executive Committee may wish to place on record its appreciation for the services they have rendered to the Council.

It is proposed to appoint Mr. Jacques de Saussure, general partner of the bank Pictet & Cie.

The Executive Committee accepted the proposal.

Audit Committee membership: Mr. Pierre Favey has resigned. It is proposed to appoint Mr. Armand Lombard of the bank Lombard, Odier & Cie.

The Executive Committee accepted the proposal.

9. Allocation of interest in 1987 for short-term or experimental programmes

It is anticipated that the interest earned on the General, Emergency and Exchange Fluctuation Reserves will be at least

Sfr. 400,000 in 1987. Half of that can be made available for new programmes of short-term or experimental basis within the framework of the budget which cannot otherwise be funded.

One proposal has been received for 1987, a CICARWS "Initiative for Africa Forum on Self-Sufficiency and Food Production". This is a short-term venture, and it is also experimental for CICARWS has never engaged in this type of activity itself. At a time of rethinking of the place and role of CICARWS, it is appropriate to test new types of activity such as this.

It is proposed that Sfr. 88,000 be allocated to CICARWS from the interest earning in 1987 for this programme.

The Executive Committee accepted the proposal.

10. Financial implications of staff appointments

The staff appointments proposed by the Staffing and Nominations Sub-committee are all within the 1987 approved budget, except for the one in JPIC, for which the Finance Committee's comments have been taken into account in the wording of the action taken on that position by the Executive Committee.

11. Finance consultation

The Sub-committee reexamined the project to organize a mini-consultation on finance in January 1987.

After carefully reviewing the purposes and goals of such a consultation it came to the conclusions that:

- a special presentation of the financial situation should be made to the Central Committee as a whole with a view to increasing the knowledge and understanding of all Central Committee members in this aspect of the Council's life;

- a consultation addressed more specifically to those responsible for finance within the member churches be envisaged after the ICARWS and Resource Sharing meetings to help rethink and reformulate policies of the Council as they will affect its financial relationships with the churches in the coming year.

The Sub-committee therefore recommends that the mini-consultation planned for January be cancelled. The Executive Committee may wish to re-consider its own schedule in light of this.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation.

The Executive Committee received the report of the Finance Sub-committee and accepted its recommendations.

17. TRAVEL EXPENSES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In a closed session, it was reported that, as agreed by the Executive Committee in Zaire, the question of members' travel expenses had been discussed with the Officers and the Moderator of the Finance Committee. The guidelines adopted by the Officers in July were noted (Appendix V).

18. EVALUATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN KINSHASA AND REYKJAVIK

The Committee spent some time in evaluating its meetings in Kinshasa and Reykjavik in an attempt to clarify some of the problems which had arisen and to improve its working methods.

A. Kinshasa

Dr McCloud suggested that more time should be spent in building relationships among members and between members and staff, since together they bore major responsibility for the leadership of the Central Committee. This would be helped by being more open in the whole group, e.g. information about the closed session held early in the Kinshasa meeting should have been shared with staff. Bishop Hempel felt that the Executive Committee needed to be more clear about its immediate goals, e.g. for the next five years.

Dr Tolen expressed gratitude for the way in which the Kimbanguist Church had received the Committee and for the opportunity to learn more about this church's life. He also stressed the need to be aware of and speak about imbalances and injustices. Metropolitan Gregorios agreed that it was good to spend time getting to know local churches but said that the Committee also needed time to clarify the respective responsibilities of the Executive and Central Committees, commissions and staff, and to discuss fundamental questions such as: why are we not closer to unity? Why do poverty and injustice persist in the world? Mr Ashmall said the main purpose of the Executive Committee or Central Committee was to do the business assigned to it and to make decisions. Often too much time was given to the "team visit" aspect of meetings held outside Geneva and too little to reports on and discussion of programme. Mr Voksoe, on the other hand, stressed the value to both the WCC and the member churches of personal contacts. The Committee was not only concerned with administrative matters but was also responsible for animating the whole ecumenical movement and the two aspects should be combined. Mr Bena-Silu commented that the Kinshasa meeting had helped his church to feel part of the ecumenical movement. Archbishop Kirill said that the meeting had opened new horizons for him which he had shared with his own church. Dr Wilson said she appreciated the opportunity to meet more members of the staff when the Executive or Central Committee was held in Geneva. The General Secretary said that efforts would be made to

clarify the nature and purpose of the Executive Committee and to improve its style of work. Some of the suggestions made following the Kinshasa meeting had been incorporated into plans for the meeting in Reykjavik.

B. Reykjavik

Ms Skuse felt that not enough time had been given to the reports of the Staff Unit Moderators. Their reports should be adequately discussed or major issues and events should be included in the General Secretary's report. She suggested that this report should not be given in a public session. Metropolitan Gregorios asked that a clear indication be given of the issues on which major time should be spent. Dr Talbot hoped that time could be found during the next two meetings for discussion of some major issues. e.g. how programmes relate to each other and their implications for member churches, finances, staffing, etc. Dr Wilson asked that in future there be some free time for informal discussion among members. Archbishop Athanasios welcomed the time spent in small groups and the period of evaluation. The Moderator said that the comments on both meetings would be taken into account in planning future meetings.

19. FUTURE MEETINGS

In view of the cancellation of the proposed mini-consultation on finance (Report of the Finance Sub-committee, page 39), it was agreed that the next meeting of the Executive Committee would take place from the morning of Tuesday, 13 January 1987 to noon on Thursday, 15 January. Members should arrive in Geneva on Monday, 12 January. Central Committee would begin on 16 January.

Details of other Executive Committee meetings (dates inclusive of day of arrival and departure) up to the Seventh Assembly are as follows:

1987	20-26 September	Atlanta, USA
1988	6-12 March	Istanbul, Turkey
	7-10 August	Hannover, FRG
1989	12-18 February	Bucharest, Romania?
	12-15 July	Moscow, USSR
1990	12-18 February	Geneva
	July	Geneva

20. CLOSING ACTIONS

It was agreed to send a letter of concern and prayers to Dr Anwar Barkat, who was recovering from a second heart attack. Dr McCloud asked that the General Secretary inform the Executive Committee if members of staff need special prayers.

Dr McCloud paid tribute to Ms Marie Assaad who would be retiring at the end of 1986. She had not had an easy task in the Council where men were still dominant in terms of their presence and involvement but she had worked with a style which had endeared her

to all. Both Committee and staff were grateful for the way in which she had helped them to grow under her leadership. Dr McCloud moved that the Executive Committee record its profound gratitude to Ms Assaad for her period of service to the WCC as Deputy General Secretary and Staff Moderator of Unit III. This was agreed by acclamation. Ms Assaad thanked the Executive Committee and colleagues for their love and support. She would continue to work for the ecumenical movement by trying to make the WCC more of a reality in her own country.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, the General Secretary expressed deep gratitude to the Church of Iceland for its warm welcome and generous hospitality. In particular he thanked Bishop Pétur Sigurgeirsson, the Rev. Audur Eir Vilhjalmsdottir, the Rev. Bernhardur Gudmundsson, the Rev. Olafur Skulason and the staff of the Parish of Bustada, the parishes which had provided lunches, and the Ecumenical Committee of Churches in Iceland which had prepared the closing service and joined with the Church of Iceland to receive the Executive Committee. Bishop Pétur said that all those in Iceland who had been involved in the meeting would have a feeling of emptiness when the participants had gone, but that, wherever they were, all would remain united in the family of faith. There was an exchange of gifts.

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Presidents:	Dame R. Nita Barrow
	Dr Marga Bührig
	Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
	Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel
	Most Rev. W.P. Khotso Makhulu
	Very Rev. Dr Lois M. Wilson
Officers:	Rev. Dr Heinz Joachim Held (Moderator)
	Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra (Vice-Moderator)
	Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot (Vice-Moderator)
	Rev. Dr Emilio Castro (General Secretary)
Members:	Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
	Mr Harry A. Ashmall
	Archbishop Athanasios of Beni Souef
	Mr Bena-Silu
	Ms Joyce Kaddu
	Archbishop Kirill of Smolensk
	Dr Janice Love
	Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud
	Rev. Dr Soritua A.E. Nababan
	Rev. Meinrad Piske
	Ms Jean Skuse
	Dr Aaron Tolen
	Bishop Dr Karoly Toth
	Mr Per Voksø
Consultants:	Mr Oh Jae Shik
	Bishop Sergiy of Solnechogorsk
Staff:	Rev. Dr Samuel Amirtham
	Rev. Toshitsugu Arai
	Rev. S. Wesley Ariarajah
	Ms Marie Assaad
	Mr Huibert van Beek
	Ms Midge Béguin-Austin
	Rev. Joan Campbell
	Mr Patrick Coïdan
	Mr Trevor Davies
	Ms Nicole Fischer
	Rev. Dr Günther Gassmann
	Rev. Dr David Gosling
	Rev. Anna-Karin Hammar
	Mr Jan Kok
	Mr Ninan Koshy
	Dr James Mutambirwa
	Rev. Clifford Payne
	Rev. William A. Perkins
	Mr Hugh Pettingell
	Dr Klaus Poser
	Dr Eric Ram
	Prof. Todor Sabev
	Ms Ruth Sovik

Interpreters:	Mr Vassily Makhnev Ms Renate Sbeghen Ms Ursula Zierl
Minute writer:	Ms Auriol Burrows
Administration:	Ms Rosemary Green

APOLOGIES

President:	Patriarch Ignatios IV of Antioch and All the East
Members:	Metropolitan Antonie of Transsylvania Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME

Metropolitan Chrysostomos (Moderator)
Metropolitan Antonie
Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel
Patriarch Ignatios IV
Ms Joyce Kaddu
Dr Janice Love
Rev. Dr Soritua A.E. Nababan
Rev. Meinrad Piske
Dr Aaron Tolen
Bishop Karoly Toth

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud (Moderator)
Mr Harry A. Ashmall
Mr Bena-Silu
Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo
Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
Ms Jean Skuse
Mr Per Voksø
Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson

SUB-COMMITTEE ON STAFFING AND NOMINATIONS

Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot (Moderator)
Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
Archbishop Athanasios
Dame R. Nita Barrow
Dr Marga Bührig
Archbishop Kirill
Archbishop W.P.K. Makhulu

SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM - LIST OF ALLOCATIONS FOR 1986

I. GROUPS OF THE RACIALLY OPPRESSED

	US Dollars	
AFRICA		
* African National Congress (ANC)	80,000	
* Pan Africanist Congress (PAC)	26,000	
* South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)	110,000	
* South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU)	10,000	226,000
ASIA		
Japan		
* National Conference of Minority People in Japan	5,000	
Taiwan		
Mountain Work Committee	1,000	6,000
OCEANIA		
Australia		
* Kimberley Land Council	4,250	
* Western Desert Land Council	4,250	8,500
EUROPE		
Federal Republic of Germany		
* Interessengemeinschaft der mit Ausländern verheirateten deutschen Frauen e.V. - Verband bi-nationaler Familien und Partnerschaften (IAF)	4,000	
* Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma	4,000	
Finland		
World Council of Indigenous People (WCIP)	3,000	
France		
* Association des Travailleurs Haitïens immigrés en France	3,500	
* Turkish Workers' Association (ATT)	3,500	
Collective of Migrant Women	3,000	
Movement for the Defence of the Rights of Black Women	3,000	
U.K.		
* Migrants Action Group (MAG)	5,000	
Southhall Monitoring Group (SMG)	3,000	32,000

NORTH AMERICA

Canada	US Dollars	
Gitksan-Wet 'suwet' en Tribal Council	3,000	
Council of the Haida Nation	3,000	
* Kaska Dene Council	4,000	
* Lubicon Lake Band	5,000	
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council	2,000	
USA		
* Asian Law Caucus	4,000	
Black Hill Steering Committee	4,000	
Columbia River Defense Project	2,500	
* Hou Hawaiians	3,000	
* Inuit Circumpolar Conference	2,500	
* National Conference of Black Lawyers	5,000	
Santo Domingo Tribe	3,000	
* Southern Christian Leadership Conference	2,000	
Training and Research Institute on Migration	5,000	48,000
		320,000

* Movements which received grants before

II. SUPPORT GROUPS

	US Dollars
Australia	
* Aboriginal and Islander Development Fund	6,000
* Campaign Against Racial Exploitation (CARE)	2,500
Brazil	
Amazonia Film Project	5,000
Canada	
* Black Theatre Canada	2,500
Focus on the North	5,000
Federal Republic of Germany	
* Information Centre on Southern Africa (ISSA) and Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAB)	6,000
France	
* French Anti-Apartheid Movement	5,000
Ireland	
* Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement (IAAM)	3,000
Japan	
* Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee	6,000
New Zealand	
* HART Aotearoa	4,000
U.K.	
* Namibia Communication Centre	2,500
* Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement	3,000
USA	
* American Committee on Africa	4,000
Center for Democratic Renewal	6,000
Christic Institute South	5,000
Clergy and Laity Concerned	3,000
East Coast Farmworker Support Network	2,500
Southerners for Economic Justice	2,500
* Washington Office on Africa	6,000
	79,500
Total : US$ 400,000	======

* Movements which received grants before

APPENDIX IV

1987 BUDGET

Budget Entity	Total Expenses Budget	Internal Recoveries & Transfers	Net Expenses Budget	Income	Transfers from Fund Balances	Allocation Undesignated Income
General Secretariate	1,748,226	0	1,748,226	20,000	0	1,728,226
US Office	596,600	0	596,600	216,600	0	380,000
OICD*	497,071	508,077	-11,006	0	-11,006	0
Governing Bodies	772,146	772,146	0	0	0	0
Library	610,984	507,770	103,214	121,500	-18,286	0
Documentation Service*	115,900	117,579	-1,679	0	-1,679	0
Conf. & Travel Office	215,850	178,850	37,000	37,000	0	0
Res. Sharing Office	1,149,416	519,416	630,000	630,000	0	0
Total Gen. Secret.	5,706,193	2,603,838	3,102,355	1,025,100	-30,971	2,108,226
Faith & Order	1,438,643	0	1,438,643	363,750	280,900	793,993
CWME	2,715,980	0	2,715,980	2,249,485	466,495	0
Dialogue	1,029,004	141,980	887,024	308,750	56,274	522,000
Church & Society	721,057	0	721,057	163,900	155,950	401,207
Unit I General	4,500	0	4,500	2,100	0	2,400
Total Unit I	5,909,184	141,980	5,767,204	3,087,985	959,619	1,719,600
CICARWS	11,562,761	0	11,562,761	8,884,400	2,678,361	0
Unit II Serv. Prog.	1,180,510	422,489	758,021	1,907,500	-1,149,479	0
CCIA	1,416,377	0	1,416,377	652,345	764,032	0
PCR	1,378,836	0	1,378,836	632,836	746,000	0
CCPD	2,020,936	0	2,020,936	1,933,347	87,089	0
CIC	1,890,667	0	1,890,667	2,014,823	-124,156	0
Total Unit II	19,450,087	422,489	19,027,598	16,025,751	3,001,847	0
Ren. & Cong. Life	800,834	0	800,834	355,470	86,330	358,534
Youth	740,238	0	740,238	290,742	291,975	157,521
Women	904,848	0	904,848	816,227	88,621	0
Education	3,142,860	0	3,142,860	2,594,973	547,887	0
PTE	1,763,043	0	1,763,043	1,555,765	207,278	0
Unit III General	11,750	0	11,750	0	0	11,750
Total Unit III	7,363,573	0	7,363,573	5,613,177	1,222,591	527,805
Communication	7,275,308	3,277,665	3,997,643	1,308,202	0	2,689,441
Ecum. Instit. Bossey	2,266,154	810,600	1,455,554	1,292,000	-9,246	172,800
Finance & Cent. Serv.	2,258,728	1,655,950	602,778	480,000	122,778	0
Seventh Assembly Res.	300,000	0	300,000	0	0	300,000
Overrecoveries	0	466,911	-466,911		-280,147	-186,764
Undesignated Income				6,614,455		
Operating Balance					716,653	
General Total			41,149,794	35,446,670	5,703,124	7,331,108

APPENDIX V

POLICY WITH REGARD TO MEMBERS' TRAVEL EXPENSES

ADOPTED BY THE WCC OFFICERS - 10 JULY 1986

When the WCC is responsible for the costs of members' travel to meetings of the Executive Committee or for other travel undertaken at the request of the WCC, the following guidelines shall apply:

a) The WCC will be responsible only for the cost of a direct flight from the airport of departure from the person's country of residence to Geneva (or other location, if the meeting is held elsewhere) and return, without stopovers, unless a break is required because the length of the trip exceeds 18 hours.

b) Flights arranged by the WCC will be by the least expensive routing, and taking advantage of any special fares or reductions available to the WCC. Members will not be asked to take a special routing if the saving is less than Sfr. 500.00 or when the inconvenience is unreasonable, i.e.

   - when travel time each way exceeds 24 hours more than the direct routing;

   - when the alternate route requires more than two connections over and above the direct route.

c) The WCC will pay the cost of a ticket, prepaid or sent from Geneva, or the cost of a ticket purchased locally by the individual or the church, whichever is less.

d) If special routing or stopovers are required, or if the person makes his or her own arrangements, the WCC will reimburse only an amount equal to the lowest cost as indicated above.

e) Members will seek to reduce costs to the WCC whenever possible. It is understood that members who are able to combine a trip with travel to other meetings will share expenses with the other organizations so as to reduce costs to the WCC.

WCC authorized travel will be by economy class (air) or second class including sleeper for overnight travel (rail).

When a ticket has been purchased locally on authorization of the WCC, reimbursement will be made on presentation of an invoice or the ticket.

Other expenses necessarily incurred in the course of travel will also be reimbursed, as follows, and on the basis of invoices or receipts:

- Moderately prices second class hotels, excluding any personal charges or private telephone charges;

- Local public transport or taxis as needed;

- The hiring of cars will not be reimbursed, except if prior clearance has been obtained, and then the hiring will be done directly by the WCC;

- Porter's charges, required airport taxes, visas, inoculations, etc.

Personal expenses are not reimbursed.

All expense reports must include the currency and rate of exchange, with exchange receipts attached.